

In the Claims

Please amend page 24, line 1 as follows:

Claims What is claimed is:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) Method for the identification of a sentinel lymph node in a subject comprising
 - a) administering to said subject a preparation comprising microbubbles comprising a shell and a gas or gas precursor, said microbubbles having a mean particle size of about 0.25 – 15 μm in diameter and a pressure stability of at least 50% at a pressure of 120 mm Hg,
 - b) allowing said microbubbles to accumulate in said sentinel lymph node and
 - c) detecting said microbubbles in said sentinel lymph node using ultrasound.
2. (Original) Method according to claim 1 wherein the preparation is interstitially, preferably percutaneously, administered.
3. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~and 2~~ claim 1, wherein the shell has an overall negative or positive net charge, preferably an overall negative net charge.
4. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the shell comprises lipids, preferably phospholipids.
5. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the shell comprises negatively charged phospholipids in an amount of from 50% to 100%.

6. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the microbubbles are stable for pressure variations associated with ultrasound imaging of a mechanical index of at least 0.2.
7. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the preparation further comprises a macrophage stimulating compound.
8. (Original) Microbubbles for the identification of a sentinel lymph node comprising a shell and a gas or gas precursor and having a mean particle size of about 0.25 – 15 μm in diameter wherein said microbubbles have a pressure stability of at least 50% at a pressure of 120 mm Hg.
9. (Original) Microbubbles according to claim 8, wherein the shell has an overall negative net charge.
10. (Currently amended) Microbubbles according to claim 8-and-9, wherein the shell comprises lipids, preferably phospholipids.
11. (Currently amended) Microbubbles according to ~~claims 8 to 10~~, claim 8, wherein the shell comprises negatively charged phospholipids in an amount of from 50% to 100%.
12. (Currently amended) Preparations for the identification of a sentinel lymph node comprising microbubbles according ~~claims 8 to 11~~ claim 8.
13. (Original) Preparations according to claim 12 further comprising a macrophage stimulating compound.
14. (Currently amended) Use of microbubbles according to ~~claims 8 to 11~~ claim 8 for the manufacture of a preparation for the identification of a sentinel lymph node.